



THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

OF THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

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of The Society of the Cincinnati



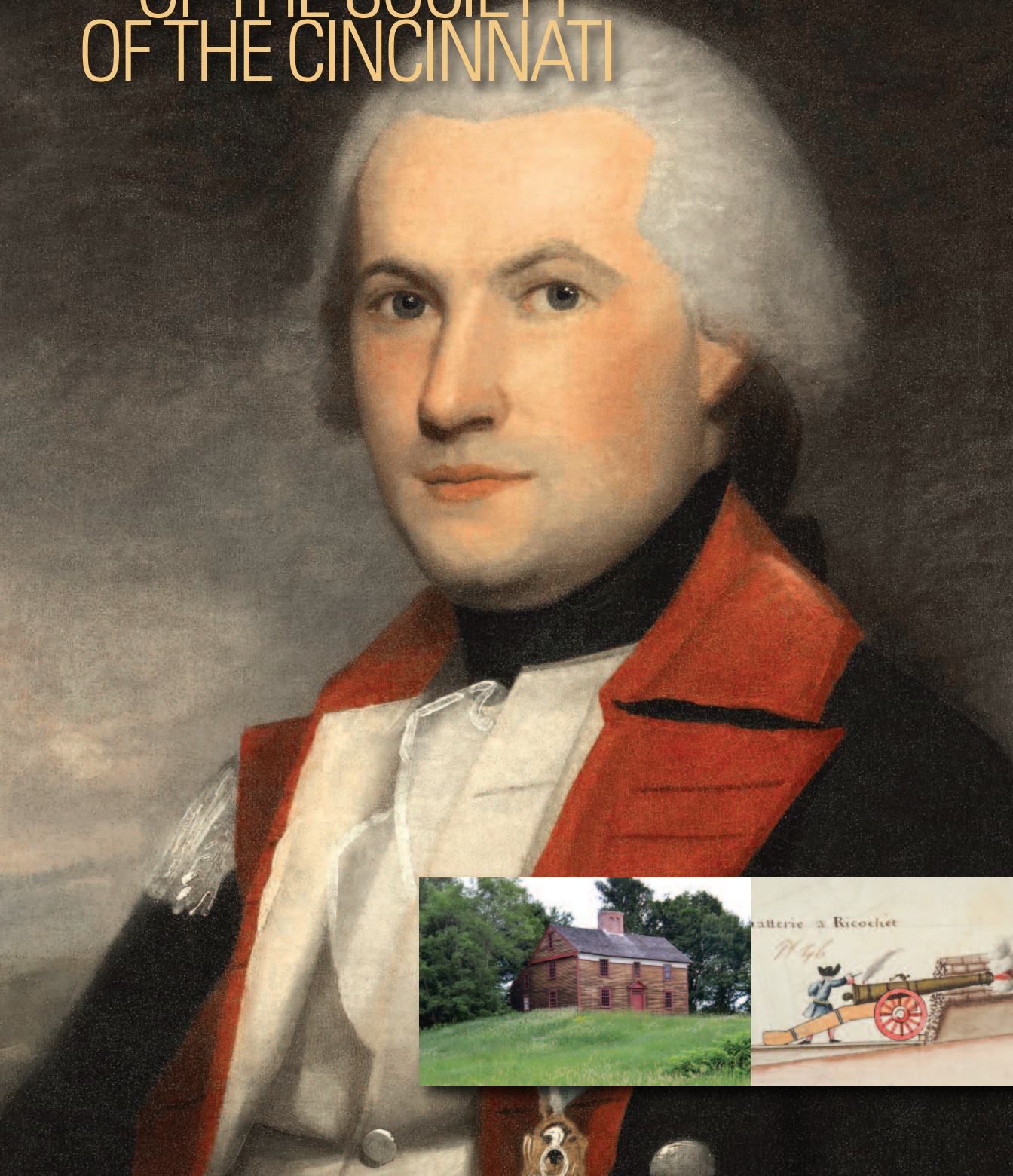
The American Revolution secured our national independence, established our republic, created our national identity, and articulated ideals of liberty, equality, civic responsibility, and natural and civil rights that have shaped our nation's history and will shape the future of the world.

Those ideals have never been more important than they are now. Yet they have never been more at risk. The story of the American Revolution is vanishing from our schools and disappearing from our culture. The heroes of the Revolution are ignored, or worse still, dismissed as unworthy of admiration and irrelevant to the circumstances of modern life. The ideals for which they fought, and so many gave their lives, are dishonored.



Together
we can change that.

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The Society of the Cincinnati, the nation's oldest patriotic organization, launched the American Revolution Institute in 2014 to renew appreciation of the history and ideals of our revolutionary generation. Like the Continental Army officers who founded the Society of the Cincinnati, we believe the American Revolution was a "vast event" that set our nation, and the world, on the path to universal liberty.

The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati is an advocacy organization dedicated solely to promoting understanding and appreciation of the American Revolution and its legacy. Our goals are to

- reform history education, ensuring that the story of our Revolution, the constructive accomplishments of the revolutionaries, and the legacy of the Revolution are widely recognized;
- protect our Revolutionary heritage, including the books, manuscripts, art and artifacts of the Revolution, as well as the remaining battlefields of our War for Independence, encouraging the study, exhibition, interpretation and enjoyment of these treasures as means to inspire millions of Americans about our national origins; and to
- become the nation's leading advocate for the memory, ideals, and legacy of the American Revolution.

There is only one sure way to achieve these goals. We have to create a movement, rallying patriotic Americans to our shared cause. We cannot be timid. We must speak out with authority in support of the people and ideals at the heart of our national experience. Our message needs to reach every part of the country.

The future of our republic depends on the character of our citizens and their dedication to our highest ideals. We imagine a future in which every American is inspired by the American Revolution, the vast event that created our nation and embraces our revolutionary ideals of universal liberty and responsible citizenship.



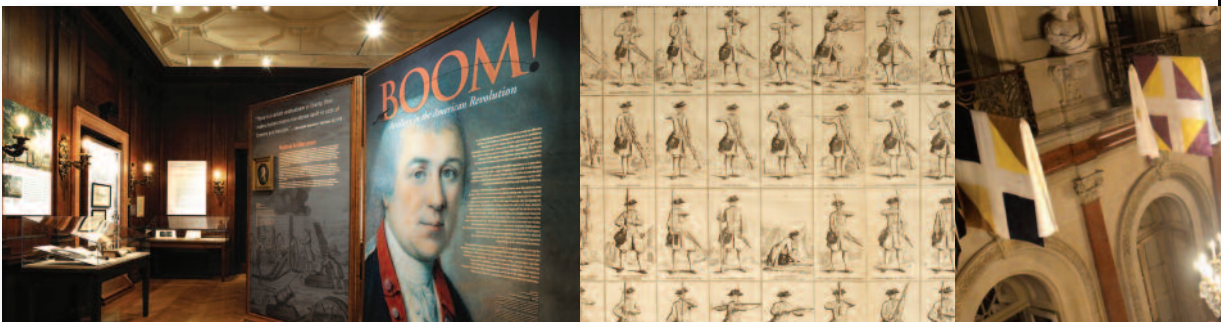
We invite you
to join us in making
that future a reality.

BUILDING A MOVEMENT

The future of the American Revolution Institute depends upon members of the Society of the Cincinnati and the many thousands of other Americans who are equally concerned about the future of our country. The Society of the Cincinnati is reaching beyond its historic membership, inviting patriotic Americans to enroll as Associates of the American Revolution Institute to join us in a great cause.

Our nation needs the American Revolution Institute. The history and ideals of the American Revolution are the foundation of our national identity. If they are forgotten, we will have nothing to hold us together. Future generations, unaware of the historic sacrifices that secured our liberty, will fail to value that liberty and sacrifice to preserve it. Our country, as it has been for more than two hundred years, will be lost.

We won't let that happen. We are working to perpetuate the remarkable story of our Revolution and the ideals we hold most dear. The future of our country depends upon our success.







WINNING THE BATTLE FOR AMERICAN REVOLUTION EDUCATION



The American Revolution is under siege in our classrooms. The time and energy devoted to teaching history is dwindling. In many schools, American history classes have been replaced with courses devoted to trans-national and global themes, leaving students with little understanding of their own nation's history. American history is increasingly presented as a story of exploitation and oppression, devoid of high ideals.

We are challenging these trends in three ways. We are advocating greater attention to the founding of the United States. We are positioning the American Revolution Institute as the leading source for educational materials on the American Revolution. And we are fighting to win the battle over the curriculum, and to reverse decades of neglect. To win this fight, we are creating model curricula on the Revolution for each grade, and tailoring that work to meet existing standards and constraints while advocating for better standards and more time.

FIGHTING FOR THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Every sustained movement is led by an effective advocacy organization — sometimes more than one. Advocacy organizations publicize their cause and rally public sentiment and support from public officials, government agencies and non-governmental organizations. And they enlist thousands — in some cases millions — of supporters, providing their organizations with considerable leverage.

The American Revolution Institute will be that organization for the memory, ideals and legacy of the Revolution, advocating educational reform, promoting understanding and appreciation of that vast event, and persuading others to adopt the Institute's aims as their own. We are inviting patriotic Americans to become Associates of the American Revolution Institute. We expect to enroll several thousand Associates in the next few years. After five years we expect the program will sustain itself through Associates' fees and contributions, but in the interim we need support to build the program.

Together we have an opportunity to do work of enduring value for our country — work no other organization is doing. There are great museums, libraries, historical societies and preservation organizations that promote understanding of the American Revolution in various ways, but none has embraced the role of national advocate for the memory and ideals of the Revolution. They are our natural allies and potential partners, and all will benefit from our success.



WHY WE HONOR GEORGE WASHINGTON

In 2008 the Society of the Cincinnati, the oldest patriotic organization in America, honored George Washington at its headquarters on Massachusetts Avenue. It is a place where statues and memorials to the nation's founders are displayed. Unlike others, this statue of George Washington is one that anyone can look at and appreciate all that he accomplished.

Washington was born into a world where no one was truly free. Slavery was a part of the American dream. The right to participate in public life was reserved for property owners. People were subject to the whims of a few. The right to speak or write was not secure in the hands of the few. People were subordinated to men — they were ignored, and their civil rights were treated as grotesque injustice, repelled.

Washington was born into a world where no one was truly free. At forty-three, he risked everything for the liberty and independence of a new nation. He led an army of ordinary men, old, from every part of the country, to an army of free men who could have endured.

After eight years of the first great republic, the proposition that by their Creator we pursue the pursuit of happiness of kings and anarchy. Nothing like this.

Washington cemented the world of people and their selfish interests.




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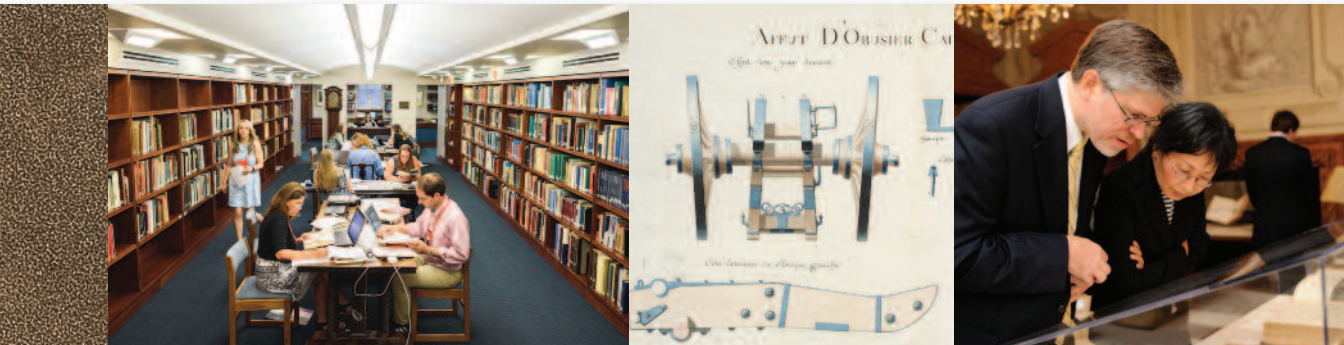


SUSTAINING THE MEMORY OF THE REVOLUTION

The revolutionaries and their ideals will be forgotten unless historians, writers, teachers and filmmakers bring their stories to life. They need the support of a world-class library on the American Revolution.

That's what we're creating. With more than 40,000 rare books, manuscripts, prints, pamphlets, broadsides and maps focused on the American Revolution, our library is already one of the nation's most important resources for advanced study on the Revolution. Our largest collection, the Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection on the art of war in the age of the American Revolution, is the most important collection on that theme in the world.

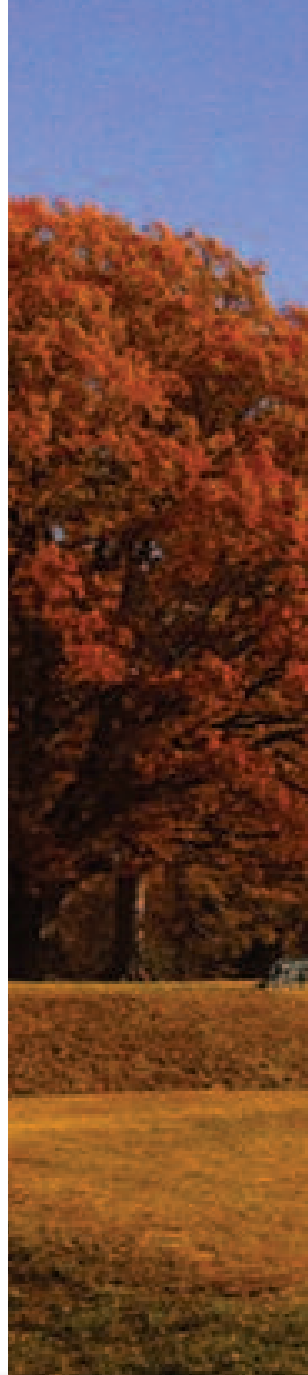
We are reaching out to researchers with fellowships to support use of the collections and digitizing important works to make it possible for anyone with access to a computer to use them. We are using our library to build the community of historians, writers, teachers, filmmakers and others who share our belief in the enduring importance of the American Revolution.



If we act now, we can save the remaining battlefields of the Revolution and interpret them effectively, and attract millions to the story of the Revolutionary War. Most of those battlefields are forgotten and neglected. It doesn't have to be that way.

The American Revolution Institute has forged a partnership with the Civil War Trust, the nation's most successful historic land preservation organization, to carry out this work. Our organizations share an unshakeable belief that the battlefields where our independence was won are a vital part of our cultural heritage. We have worked together to preserve historic land on the Princeton battlefield and along the Battle Road between Lexington and Concord. We have sponsored archaeological work there as well, so the fighting can be properly understood — original research that is adding to knowledge about the Revolutionary War.

There is much more to do to bring our neglected Revolutionary War battlefields to life and turn them into educational resources for millions of Americans.



SAVING OUR SACRED PLACES





INSPIRING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

We are harnessing the sense of wonder people feel when they encounter authentic objects from the American Revolution to inspire lasting interest in that vast event, publicize our mission and recruit supporters for our cause.

The Society of the Cincinnati has been collecting art and artifacts of the American Revolution for more than seventy-five years. Just as important, we have been mounting exhibitions using our collections to illuminate important aspects of the Revolution. We have also been sending our collections on the road. An exhibition featuring highlights from our collections opened at the Chateau de Versailles in 2016. Art and artifacts from our collections have been featured at the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown and at the new Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.



We are working to build our collections, mounting exhibitions on the heroes and villains, great events and major themes of the Revolution, and to take those exhibitions to museums in every part of the country, reaching out to places that aren't served by large history museums and where people may have never encountered artifacts of the American Revolution. Our aim is to reach Americans in their own communities and to persuade them, regardless of where they live or when their family came to this country, that the story of the American Revolution is their story — the common inheritance of free people.

**If you are interested in discussing opportunities to support the work
of the American Revolution Institute, please contact**

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**or a member of the Steering Committee
for the Campaign for the American Revolution Institute**

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William Pless Lurger

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The activities of the American Revolution Institute are guided by the Board of Overseers, which may have as many as fifteen members, including members of the Society of the Cincinnati and other patriotic Americans. The latter may include women and men who share the Institute's aims. Appointments to the Board of Overseers are by nomination by the Board of Overseers, subject to the confirmation of the Executive Committee of The Society of the Cincinnati, Inc.



For further information, visit us on the web at www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org.



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